



Annual Report of the Medical Officer

of Health for 1937.

To the Chairman and Members of the Eton Urban District Council.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I beg to present my Report on the Sanitary Circumstances and Administration and the Vital Statistics of your District for the year 1937.

Section A.Statistics & Social Conditions of the Area.

Area	1410 acres.
Population (Registrar-General's estimate) 1937 ...	3968.
Number of Inhabited Houses (end of 1937)	760.
Rateable Value	£41,147.
Sum represented by a Penny Rate	£162.

The Urban District consists of 1410 acres, having been enlarged to the extent of 1091 acres as from 1st April, 1934, by the transference of the parishes of Eton Wick and Boveney New Town from the Eton Rural District.

The District comprises the High Street of business premises and streets leading thereto. The College and Playing Fields, and two miles to the west, the parishes of Eton Wick and Boveney New Town.

There are no Industries carried on in the area.

Vital Statistics.Live Births.

TOTAL	26	Male 13	Female 13.
Legitimate	25	" 12	" 13.
Illegitimate	1	" 1	" 0.
Birth Rate per 1000 Population	6.5.		
Birth Rate per 1000, excluding Boys at Eton College	8.8.		
(Birth Rate per 1000 England & Wales	14.9.		
Still Births			nil.

Deaths.

TOTAL	40	Male 15	Female 25.
<u>Death Rate per 1000 Population</u>	10.0.		
<u>Corrected Death Rate for Age and Sex Distribution</u>	12.6.		
(Death Rate per 1000 England & Wales	12.4).		
Of the 40 deaths, 24 were aged 70 or over, 3 were over 90, and			
9 were between 80 and 90 years of age.			
<u>Number of Women dying in or in consequence of Childbirth</u> ... nil.			
<u>Deaths of Infants under one year of age</u> ... Male 0 ... Female 1.			
Infant Mortality Rate	38.4.		
(Rate for England & Wales	58).		
Deaths from Measles			nil.
" " Whooping Cough			nil.
" " Diarrhoea			nil.
<u>Causes of Death.</u>			
	Male	Female	Total
Influenza	1	0	1
Tuberculosis of Respiratory System	2	0	2
Cancer, Malignant disease	2	6	8
Diabetes	1	0	1
Heart Disease	3	9	12
Cerebral Haemorrhage	1	1	2
Aneurysm	1	0	1
Other Circulatory diseases	2	3	5
Pneumonia	0	1	1
Other Digestive Diseases	0	1	1
Senility	0	1	1
Suicide	1	0	1
Other Defined Causes	1	2	3
Other Ill-defined causes	0	1	1
	—	—	—
All causes	15	25	40

There has been no unusual or excessive sickness or mortality during the year.

Section B.

General Provision of Health Services for the Area.

1. Public Health Officers of the Authority.

Medical Officer of Health.

V.A.T. Spong, M.B., B.S. (Lond:) D.P.H., M.R.C.S. (Eng:), L.R.C.P. (Lond:), also Medical Officer of Health for Slough Urban and Eton Rural Districts, Assistant County Medical Officer Bucks County Council, Medical Superintendent Eton Joint Hospital (Whole-time).

Deputy Medical Officer of Health.

F.M. Day, M.R.C.S. (Eng:) L.R.C.P. (Lond:) D.P.H., D.T.M., Deputy Medical Officer of Health for Slough Urban and Eton Rural Districts, Assistant County Medical Officer Bucks County Council, Deputy Medical Officer Eton Joint Hospital (Whole-time).

Surveyor & Engineer and Sanitary Inspector.

E.F. Pressey, P.A.S.I., M.R.San.I., (Whole-time).

2. Nursing in the Home.

- (a) A Queen's Nurse and Midwife is resident in the District.
- (b) There is no arrangement in force for the Home nursing of cases of Infectious Diseases.

3. Laboratory Facilities.

All laboratory work is carried out by the Clinical Research Association of which the Council is a Member. During the year 15 specimens were sent for examination for the presence of Diphtheria Bacilli - of these 14 were negative.

4. Legislation in Force.

Adoptive Acts and Byelaws.

Adoptive Acts:-

Sections Unrepealed by Public Health Act 1936 of:-

Infectious Diseases Prevention Act, 1890.
Public Health Amendment Act, 1890, Part 3.
Public Health Amendment Act, 1907.

Byelaws:-

Slaughter-houses.
Common Lodging-houses.
New Streets and Buildings.
Cleansing of Footways.
Removal of House Refuse.
Prevention of Nuisances.
Keeping of Animals.

5. Hospital Services.

- (a) King Edward VII Hospital is available for all cases other than Infectious Diseases.
- (b) Eton Joint Hospital at Cippenham for Infectious Diseases both Notifiable and Non-Notifiable which require treatment in hospital.
- (c) The Saunderton Sanatorium near Princes Risborough for cases of Small-Pox.

6. Ambulance Facilities.

- (a) For Infectious Cases the Eton Urban District by agreement with the Eton Joint Hospital Board have the use of the Motor Ambulance stationed at the Eton Joint Hospital.
- (b) For Non-Infectious Cases an ambulance can be requisitioned either from the St. John Ambulance Headquarters at Slough or from the Slough Police Station.

7. Clinics and Treatment Centres.

- (a) Maternity and Child Welfare.

A Maternity and Child Welfare Clinic is held at the Church Hall, High Street, Eton, and meets on the first and third Tuesdays in each month. There is also a Clinic held at the Institute at Eton Wick. Dr. Day attends as Medical Officer on the third Tuesday at the Church Hall, and on the first Friday at the Institute, Eton Wick, in addition to the District Nurses and Voluntary helpers.

The Centres are under the supervision of the Bucks County Council, and managed by a Voluntary Committee of Ladies.

There was one death of an infant under one year of age during 1937, the cause of death being Broncho Pneumonia and Heart Failure at the age of 2 weeks. The Infantile Mortality rate is therefore 38.4. The rate for England and Wales being 58.

(b) Tuberculosis.

A Clinic provided by the County Council is held on the first, second and fourth Tuesdays in each month at Alpha Street, Slough, where the County Tuberculosis Officer sees cases from this District sent there by the Local Medical Practitioners.

(c) School Clinics.

School children receive attention by the District Nurse every school morning at the Church Hall, High Street, Eton.

Section C.

Sanitary Circumstances of the Area.

1. (i) Water.

The Windsor Corporation Waterworks provide a constant supply throughout the district, which has been satisfactory both in quality and quantity. An extension 180 yards long, was made for the supply to a new building estate in the West Ward.

The supply is chlorinated and controlled bacteriologically by monthly examinations of the water by the Public Health Counties Laboratories.

The following is the report on a sample taken from a house tap on 23rd April, 1938:-

Number of Colonies per cubic centimetre
of water growing upon Agar at 20°C.
in 3 days.

1

Number of Colonies per cubic centimetre
of water growing upon Agar at 37°C.
in 1 day
2 days

0

0

Smallest quantity of water producing acid
and gas in Bile-Salt Lactose Broth after
2 days' incubation at 37°C.

Absent in 100 c.c.

Smallest quantity of water containing the
Bacillus Coli.

Absent in 100 c.c.

Smallest quantity of water giving the reaction of the B.Welchii (Bacillus Enteritidis Sporogenes).

Absent in 100 c.c.

This sample is clear and bright and of the highest standard of bacterial purity in which respects it is pure and wholesome water, suitable for drinking and domestic purposes.

(ii) Drainage and Sewerage.

There has been no extension of the sewers or alteration in the method of disposal, which is carried out on the broad irrigation principle at the Council's sewage farm at Eton Wick.

The Sewerage Scheme for the West Ward has been prepared and is about to be submitted to the Minister for approval.

At present the majority of the buildings in this Area drain into cesspools - this method of disposal is not altogether satisfactory owing to leakage and insufficient capacity of the cesspools. Houses without cesspools have pail closets, the contents of which are disposed of in the gardens. The Council employ a Contractor to empty the cesspools as often as may be necessary. 410 visits to 107 cesspools were made during the year. Contents are disposed of at the sewage farm.

2.

Rivers and Streams.

There has been no evidence of pollution of rivers or streams during the year, but two samples of the Thames water supplying two open-air bathing pools showed that bacteriologically the water was not of the standard considered desirable for a bathing water, though chemically the water conforms to the standard of the Thames Conservancy under the Conservators' Act. The following is the report of the Clinical Research Association of a sample taken on 28th June, 1937:-

(1) QUANTITATIVE.

The average number of organisms, producing visible colonies on gelatine plates incubated at 20 C. for 3 days is found to be 1530 per c.c.

The average number of organisms, producing visible colonies on Agar plates incubated at 37.5 C. for 2 days is found to be 440 per c.c.

(11) QUALITATIVE

B. coli present in 0. 1 c.c.

Streptococci present in 10 c.c.

Cl. Welchii (Spores)

The above figures show that the water contains a considerable number of excremental organisms and is well below the standard considered desirable for a bathing water.

3. (i) Closet Accommodation. With the exception of the West Ward where there are 126 cesspools and 24 pail closets - all houses have the water carriage system - no conversions were carried out during the year.

(ii) Public Cleansing. The method of collection of house refuse is by covered horse drawn carts, each house being visited once weekly - in a number of cases two visits a week are made. The refuse is disposed of by incineration in the destructor at the Council's Pumping Station.

(iii) Sanitary Inspection of the Area.

Number of Inspections made	10.
" " Nuisances found	8.
" " " remedied by service of informal notices	8.
" " " remedied by service of formal notice.....	nil.

(iv) Shops. 25 shops were inspected during the year, in several instances small defects were noted and dealt with by the persons concerned.

(v) Smoke Abatement. No nuisance from smoke during the year.

(vi) Swimming Baths and Pools. There are two open-air swimming pools on tributaries of the Thames, one is private and the other public. Samples of the water were taken during the Summer and the analysis, given above under "Rivers and Streams", showed the water

to be unfit for bathing, as a consequence the pools were closed for the remainder of the bathing season.

(vii) Eradication of Bed Bugs.

1. (a) Number of Council houses infested 1.
- (b) Number of other houses infested nil.
- (c) Number of Council houses dis-infested.. 1.
- (d) Number of other houses dis-infested ... nil.
2. The house was dis-infested by Messrs. Newton Chambers' "Zaldecide" method.
3. In order to ensure that there is no infestation, a careful inspection is made of the belongings and bedding of tenants before they move into Council houses.
4. The work of dis-infestation of the infested Council house was carried out by the Council's staff.
5. The Sanitary Inspector advises and supervises to prevent infestation or re-infestation after cleansing.

4. Schools.

There are two elementary schools in the District. The Eton Porny School has Town water supply and sanitary accommodation on the water carriage system. The Eton Wick School has pail closets which will no doubt, be converted when the Sewerage Scheme in this area is completed - the water for this School is from the Town source.

5. Miscellaneous.

Controlled Premises.

Type.	Number in District.	Number Registered.	Number of Inspections made.
Bakehouses	3	3	4
Slaughterhouses	1	1	2
Cow-keepers	9	9	20
Dairymen (including Milk Retailers)	14	14	10

Outworkers. The latest list of Outworkers shows 22 persons engaged with three firms on tailoring work.

Section D.

HOUSING.

Progress in Housing continues to be made. Three Clearance Orders comprising 34 houses became operative during the year. The tenants from these areas have been rehoused in houses provided by the Council, and the Eton College Housing Society. One of the cleared sites has been developed by the latter Society - 16 houses and flats being provided.

The Council has now obtained a further Housing site of four acres in Eton Wick, and this is about to be developed and will rehouse persons from dwellings which will be the subject of further Clearance Orders.

Houses erected during 1937.

Houses built by the Local Authority	nil.
" " " Housing Societies	16.
" " " private enterprise	10.

Housing Statistics for 1937.

1. Inspection of Dwelling-houses during the Year:-

(1) (a) Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)	138.
(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose	189.
(2) (a) Number of dwelling-houses (included under sub-head (1) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925	128.
(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose	157.
(3) Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous to health as to be unfit for human habitation	0.
(4) Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation..	99.

2. Remedy of Defects during the Year without Service of formal Notices:-

Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their officers	71.
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3. Action under Statutory Powers during the Year:-

(a) Proceedings under sections 9, 10 and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936:

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs 12.

(2) Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices:-

(a) by Owners 0.
(b) By Local Authority in default of Owners 0.

(b) Proceedings under Public Health Acts:

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied 0.

(2) Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices:-

(a) By Owners 0.
(b) By Local Authority in default of Owners 0.

(c) Proceedings under sections 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936:

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made 0.

(2) Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders 3.

(d) Proceedings under section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936:

(1) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made 0.

(2) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the tenement or room having been rendered fit 0.

4. Housing Act, 1936 - Part IV - Overcrowding:

(a) (i) Number of dwellings overcrowded at the end of the year 4.

(ii) Number of families dwelling therein 4.

(iii) Number of persons dwelling therein 26.

(b) Number of new cases of overcrowding reported during the year 0.

(c) (i) Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year 8.

(ii) Number of persons concerned in such cases 35.

(d) Particulars of any cases in which dwelling-houses have again become overcrowded after the Local Authority has taken steps for the abatement of overcrowding.. 0.

(e) (i) Number of cases of overcrowding in Council houses.. 2.

(ii) Number of cases of overcrowding in Council houses relieved during the year 0.

(iii) Number of cases of overcrowding relieved in course of Slum Clearance operations 3.

Section E.

Inspection and Supervision of Food.

(a) Milk Supply. The condition of the cowsheds of the district still shows improvement and more nearly reaches the standard laid down in the Milk and Dairies Order, 1926. One shed has been rebuilt and others largely reconstructed.

There are 7 supplementary milk licences issued under the Milk (Special Designations) Order, 1936, in force in the district.

The milk supply from the Council's farm still continues to be of a high standard and further diplomas for low bacterial counts have been awarded.

(b) Meat and Other Foods.

The greater portion of the meat consumed in the district is slaughtered outside the Urban area. No meat was found to be unfit for human consumption.

One pheasant was found to be unfit for human consumption, was surrendered voluntarily and destroyed.

Total numbers of killings in the district, 5 sheep.

Details of Inspections.

Drainage and Sewerage.

Blocked house drains	4.
New drainage work	85.
Defective cesspools	1.

Factories and Workshops.

Dirty walls	6.
Dirty ceilings	4.
Defective floors	5.
Limewashing required	7.
Defective walls	1.
Dirty sanitary accommodation	3.
Dirty floors	1.

Cowsheds and Dairies.

Defective floors	3.
Defective drainage	3.
Milkers dirty	1.
Limewashing required	1.

Miscellaneous.

Interviews with builders and property owners	11.
Application re: sale of Ice Cream	1.
Samples of water taken from bathing places	2.
Bathing place inspections	6.
Nuisance from dustbin	1.
Posting notices re River pollution	2.
Nuisance from Rats	1.

Housing.

Overcrowding Investigation	21.
Defective yard paving	39.
" roofs	12.
" stair treads	7.
" internal walls	33.
" sinks	13.
" floors	21.
" outbuildings	21.
" surface water drainage	1.
" ceiling	16.
" external walls	8.
" copper	10.
" windows	35.
" rainwater gutters and downpipes	34.
" water butts	3.
" cesspools and drains	7.
" external doors	6.
" W.C. pans	3.
" grates	6.
" chimney stacks	15.
Dampness	95.
Pointing of external walls	54.
Staircase, handrail required	42.

Section F.Notifiable Diseases during the Year 1937
(other than Tuberculosis).

<u>Disease.</u>	<u>Total Cases Notified.</u>	<u>Cases admitted to Hospital.</u>	<u>Total Deaths.</u>
Small-Pox	-	-	-
Diphtheria	1	1	-
Scarlet Fever	11	11	-
Enteric Fever	-	-	-
Puerperal Fever and Pyrexia	-	-	-
Pneumonia	-	-	-
Erysipelas	-	-	-
Acute Anterior Poliomyelitis	1	1	-

The 11 cases of Scarlet Fever were in the following age groups:- Under 2 years - 1; between 5 and 10 years - 6; between 10 and 15 years - 1; between 15 and 20 years - 1; and between 35 and 45 years - 2. 8 cases occurred in

Eton Wick Ward. All were of the prevailing mild type.

The case of diphtheria and of Acute Anterior Poliomyelitis occurred in boys attending Eton College.

No use has been made of the Schick and Dick tests in Diphtheria and Scarlet Fever respectively, but under the County Council's scheme, parents who so desire, may have their children protected from Diphtheria by Immunisation at the Welfare Clinics free of charge.

No primary vaccination nor re-vaccination was performed by the Medical Officer of Health under the Public Health (Small-Pox Prevention) Regulations.

There are no facilities for cleansing verminous persons. Disinfection of premises and articles after the notifiable infectious diseases is carried out by formalin fumigation - where considered necessary, steam disinfection of infected articles is carried out in the Washington-Lyons Steam Disinfector at the Joint Isolation Hospital.

Prevention of Blindness.

No action has been necessary under section 66 of the Public Health Act, 1925, or section 176 of the Public Health Act, 1936.

Tuberculosis.

No action has been necessary under the Public Health (Prevention of Tuberculosis) Regulations, 1925, nor under section 62 of the Public Health Act, 1925, or section 172 of the Public Health Act, 1936.

New Cases and Mortality.

During the year, 2 notifications were received of Pulmonary Tuberculosis, a male, aged 30 years, and a female, aged 22 years. 2 deaths were recorded, both Respiratory and both males aged 39 and 63 years; neither had been previously notified.

I am, Ladies and Gentlemen,
Your obedient Servant,

V.A.T. SPONG, M.B., B.S.,
D.P.H., & etc.

